

Southeast News

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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CONVOCATION WELL ATTENDED



ROBERT MCMATH

In the familiar surroundings of Camp Sumatanga, Gallant, Ala., the 1976 Ministers' Convocation was held Monday through Wednesday, April 26-28 with nearly 40 people in attendance. An annual event for Southeast Conference pastors and their spouses, the Ministers' Convocation provides not only continuing education seminars, but a time for relaxation and sharing as well. The principal speaker at this year's event was Dr. Robert McMath, (above) Professor of

History at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, Ga. Speaking on "Some Un-Bicentennial Reflections on Religion and Southern Culture," Dr. McMath devoted three lectures to the discipline of history, as it relates to the southern church and the United Church of Christ.

Rev. and Mrs. David Chandler led the Convocation in three sessions entitled, "Spousery," in which pastors and spouses were re-acquainted with ways for increasing communication within the family setting.

Rev. Bill Hodnet and Rev. Edward Brown shared their concerns and the means for responding to the world-wide problem of hunger. A highlight of this year's convocation were the devotional and worship services led by Rev. Mary-Lynn Ogletree, Chaplain at Vanderbilt University. Chairman of this year's convocation was Rev. Floyd Carmack, pastor of the Bonanza United Church in Jonesboro, Ga.



SAVANNAH, FIRST CHURCH
Tenth Annual Session

June 11-13 at

Savannah and Midway

The Tenth Annual Meeting of Southeast Conference will be held at Savannah and Midway, Ga., June 11-13. The theme of the Conference is "Heritage and Promise."

All delegates and visitors are asked to meet Friday night, June 11, at Downtown Holiday Inn in Savannah to serve on Review Committees. These Committees review the work of the Conference Commissions, Task Forces, officers and staff. Review Committees make their reports to the business meeting on Saturday morning, June 12, at First Congregational Church, Savannah.

The roll call of churches and delegates will feature the date of the organization of the local church represented at the meeting. Each church should find the date of organization of the church in the Year Book, print name of church and date of organization on a placard not less than 8½"X11"! The placard can be attached to a short stick to hold it high, while the delegates from that church march in the sanctuary with other delegates singing, "When the Saints Go Marching In." Also, the number of delegates present, including pastor, should be at bottom of placard in small letters.

James A. Mackey, a former Georgia Congressman and Attorney of Decatur, Ga., will be the principal speaker at the Bicentennial Celebration at Old Midway Church, 3 P.M., Saturday, June 12. Officials of Georgia and other states will be present at the celebration.

The Midway Choir will present a special concert in the new Midway Church Saturday evening, June 12, titled "A

Thoughts, Prayers for Angolans

With the apparent victory of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) over its political rivals, concern continues for the Christian people with whom missionaries of the United Church of Christ and their predecessors have worked for nearly a century. The area in which these people live was largely controlled by the UNITA group until the final MPLA takeover in February. Little has been heard from our fellow Christians there since then. The hospitals have remained open, and it is supposed that most church-related schools with which we

were associated may have reopened by now, though the seminary is still closed. It is believed that the thrust of the church's work in meeting the needs of people will be accepted by the new government.

Just how Christian citizens of a free Angola are faring under the new government is unclear. One can only lift them up in one's concern and in one's prayers. God grant that the lives of all Angolans may find new meaning and that justice and freedom may be granted to them all.



SEMINARY STUDENTS from Emanuel Theological Seminary in Dondi on a field

trip, visiting with a Roman Catholic priest near Huambo in Central Angola.

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NEWS NOTES

Youth Meeting (semi-annual) for churches of N. Ala. was held at Caddo in April. Good crowd but not all churches represented. Jones Chapel Youth did the program, "Facing the Cross." Caddo, Jones Chapel, and Old Liberty meet monthly at alternating churches. Roger Loosier is Sponsor. Next meeting: Nov., Jones Chapel.

— Lisa Shelton, President

Brookmeade's Board of Christian Ed. planned a seminar entitled, "Planning and Improving Your Retirement", to provide ministry for the whole community. Held at First E&R, May 22, subjects covered were: "Overview on Retirement", "Psychological Aspects", "Leisure Time", and "Financial Planning."

From the Pleasant Hill Newsletter:

The Historical Society of Community Church has as its purpose: "To bring together those people interested in the history of the Plateau and its environs. The Society's major function will be to discover and collect material which may help to establish or illustrate history of the Plateau, printed and oral — manuscript, material, museum material, illustrative of the past or present.

The Society will provide for preservation of such material and will arouse interest of the public by sharing historical findings and information. The Society will encourage preservation and marking of historical buildings, sites and trails, holding meetings of interest to members and the public.

Peggy Hall, secretary

SLC AVAILABLE

If you know where you want to go, you are more likely to arrive there! Obvious? Yet, a lot of persons and institutions, including the church, drift along without a sense of purpose, and then complain about not getting anywhere.

We are not satisfied with this in the United Church or in our Conference.

Our Conference in cooperation with the U.C.C. Office for Church Life and Leadership has trained several teams of persons to be of assistance to our congregations in helping them set their goals and devising the means for accomplishing these goals.

It is not the intent of these teams to tell you what to do, but to help you discover what you can do and help you do them.

If you are interested in more information about this program, write the Southeast Conference Office, Box 29883, Atlanta, Ga. 30359. Ask about the **Strengthening the Local Church** program.

Statement of Faith to Be Studied

The Executive Council has requested that the Office of Church Life and Leadership undertake a study to determine if there is need to prepare a new U.C.C. statement of faith at this time. As part of this study a resource, "Stating the Faith in the United Church of Christ," is available for use by local congregations and other groups which want to participate in a three-hour structured experience. The resource is designed to assist in theological reflection and in forming a response.

Each group desiring to participate in the study in this way may request "Stating the Faith in the United Church of Christ" from Church Leadership Resource, Box 179, St. Louis, Mo. 63166. There is no charge for copies of the resource used in the study. A response sheet for each group is included in the resource. Responses received by Sept. 1 will be included in the report of the study to the Executive Council in October, 1976.

Hunger Program at Brookmeade

For four Sundays in May, members of Brookmeade Church in Nashville, participated in the Hunger Program. Each family brought a dish (cost limited) and participated in a meal together, followed by a program on some phase of the hunger program. Leader was Will Aiken, who is having a book published on the subject.



Barbecue Benefits Alexander City

On Saturday, April 24, the East Alabama Men's Fellowship held a barbecue for First Congregational Church of Alexander City, Alabama. Those west Georgia barbecue experts of Oak Grove Church, Pine Mountain, Ga. began cooking Friday night and cooked for 12 hours in a pit built by the men of the local church.

The church members sold over 700

Alabama Women's Fellowship Meets

Saturday, June 5, at Southern Union College, Wadley, Ala., 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (CT). Guest speaker is Mrs. Susie Lackard, former missionary and wife of Director of Orientation Program for missionaries at Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Ga. Worship services to be given by LaGrange United and Birmingham Churches. Communion Service led by Warren Blankenhorn.

Mrs. Dorothy Smith, Pres.
Oak Grove Church, Pine Mt., Ga.

Student Serves Chattanooga Pilgrim

For eleven weeks this summer, a student from Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville will serve as a Christian Education intern.

Keith Thompson, 23, single, from Ohio, studied in New York, Washington, London, and Florence, is majoring in Theological Ethics at Vanderbilt.

While at Chattanooga, Pilgrim, Keith will work forty hours a week in four areas:

1. Christian Education, planning, recruiting, and training.
2. Summer Christian Education programs.
3. Summer youth programs.
4. Glenwood involvement.

advance tickets and the barbecue dinner netted over \$1,200.

First Congregational Christian Church of Alexander City was formerly Hunt Memorial Church which ceased to exist in 1974. Through the vision of Rev. Charles Bell and one member, there are now over 30 members with vision. There is now a remodeled church building and parsonage and the congregation is striving toward becoming once again a viable church in our Conference.

Suggestions for Curriculum Resources

By Juanita Valasco

A packet of all teaching/learning resources currently available from the National Offices of UCBHM has been sent to every church. Please make sure it reaches the hands of those responsible in your congregation for ordering these materials. If you have need for additional copies, the packet is free and can be obtained by writing: Division of Publication — Periodicals, 1505 Race St. Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.

Ministries with children in Small Churches

A small pamphlet packed with information to help the small church deal with their educational problems has been developed by a project team of Joint Educational Development.

Groupings, space, curriculum resources and training leaders for Church School are all dealt with as well as "Special Settings" which includes Vacation Church School, family nights and camping. Children in congregational life and Decision-Making in the small church are also discussed in this 30-page pamphlet. For a copy, write Geneva Press, 1132 Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107.

Our Faith and Our Teaching. This pamphlet has been produced by the JED team as a resource for teachers and leaders to reflect on their own faith experiences and to make the connection between personal faith, experience and the task of leadership in teaching and learning experiences. You will find a use for this pamphlet in personal reading and reflection, teacher training sessions, and retreats. To order, send \$1.95 to Christian Board of Publication, Box 179, St. Louis, Mo. 63166.

Learning Center Approach Revisited

This follow-up booklet to "The Learning Center Approach in Church Education" published in 1971 by UCBHM provides further guidance through increased experience in the use of learning center. If you are looking for a new approach to education in your church you will want to have both resources. They are available from D.E.C.E.E., Box 179, St. Louis, Mo. 63166, at a cost of \$1.50 and \$1.25, respectively.

Discovering the Bible with Children

This is the new series of resources for Kindergarten through sixth grade which will be used with Uniform Lesson series. It is a part of "Knowing the Word," one of the four approaches in Christian Education: Shared Approaches. An introductory manual for teachers and planners, "DRC Guidelines for Your Church", will be available by June 1 for \$2.95, from: Division of Publications-Periodicals, 1505 Race St., Phila., Pa. 19102. The entire quarterly dated series will be available for

Students Funded by Belvidere

The Scholarship Loan Fund of the Belvidere Church, Belvidere, Tenn., is a fund established in the church for the purpose of aiding students who are members of this congregation in their quest for higher education in preparation for meaningful and worthwhile futures. Funds are contributed through the special offering taken on Student or Youth Sunday, usually the last Sunday in December, when all loose offering goes to the fund. Monies can be contributed to the fund by special gifts, memorials and bequests. Any member of this congregation who is enrolled, or who plans to enroll in an accredited institution of higher education is eligible. Application is made, in writing, to the committee which considers it. The maximum regular loan per student per year shall be \$400. However, the Committee may consider special situations. Loans are due and payable six months after the student leaves school or receives the academic degree sought. There will be no interest on the loan while the student is engaged in studies as a full-time student. When the loan becomes due and payable, interest shall accrue at the rate of 6% per year simple interest.

Annual Session— from Page 1

Bicentennial Salute to American Music."

The choirs of First Congregational Church of Savannah and of Plymouth Church, Charleston, will share in the leadership of the worship service on Sunday, June 13, at First Church, Savannah, where Dr. Robert V. Moss, President of the United Church of Christ will preach. Rev. Neil Mosley is pastor of the Savannah Church and Rev. James Eaton is pastor of the Midway Church.

Anyone who wants to wear a "Bicentennial Costume" on Saturday, especially at Midway Church, should feel free to do so.

use in the local church by September, 1976.

A display of the Shared Approaches, materials and other related JED publications will be available at the Annual Meeting of the Conference. Please set aside some time when you can browse through a few pieces to meet the needs of your church's educational program.

Teaching Yourself to Teach Kit.

Designed for use with Vacation Venture Series, but can be adapted to regular Church School setting. A source of help to beginning teachers and a refresher course for experienced ones. Order from Cokesbury Regional Service Center, 5th & Grace Sts., Richmond, Va. 23261.



Ala.-Tenn. Youth Hold Mini Camp

A Mini-Camp was held for the youth of the Ala-Tenn Association April 30-May 2 at Camp Kiwanis, near Chattanooga, Tennessee. Designed for young people from the 7th through the 12th grade, the camp attracted 35 youth from five Association churches.

Mixing study with outdoor recreation, the camp involved all in relating their religious convictions to the complex exercise of their personal lives. In between study group sessions the young people made use of the swimming, canoeing, tennis and baseball facilities available at the camp. Each group presented a skit on Saturday evening to the laughter and delight of all present.

Mrs. Grace Reph of the Chattanooga Pilgrim Church operated the kitchen; Rev. Stephen Gray, pastor of Brookmeade Church in Nashville, was camp and program director.

UCC Ministers at Fisk

Two ministers of the United Church of Christ spoke at graduation exercises at Fisk University the weekend of May 9-10: Dr. Joseph Evans, Secretary of the United Church, delivered the baccalaureate Sermon on Sunday, at Fisk Chapel. The Commencement address was given by Andrew Young, U.S. representative from Georgia (and a UCC minister) on Monday at Fisk Chapel.

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NEWS NOTES

The Langdale and Lanett Churches have at least one thing in common — Mrs. Horace [Shirley] Welch is the office secretary in each church. Shirley is a member of the Lanett Church and is well acquainted with the East Alabama Association and its meetings.

(Langdale, NEWSLETTER, 4/76)

John Schofield, pastor of Phenix City, Russell Woods, left May 2 on his Holy Land junket, to be gone 17 days. On advice of her doctor, his wife didn't go. John's last church in N.C. gave him this as a retirement gift.

—(GREENSBORO, PALM STREET, CHURCH).

Brookmeade Church, Nashville, had a most unusual person at their meeting on May 7. She was the Peace Pilgrim, a woman who has devoted her life to sharing her message of spiritual and human peace. She spoke at the public service, telling of her travel by foot across the entire continent for the past 20 years.

First Church, Nashville, Tn., was the setting for the wedding of Carmen Bassler to Ronald Davis on June 4.

A special Maundy Thursday service, hosted by First Church, included Howard and Brookmeade Churches. The Easter Service was conducted by Dr. Tom Ogletree and his wife, Rev. Mary Lynn Ogletree, doing a dialogue sermon.

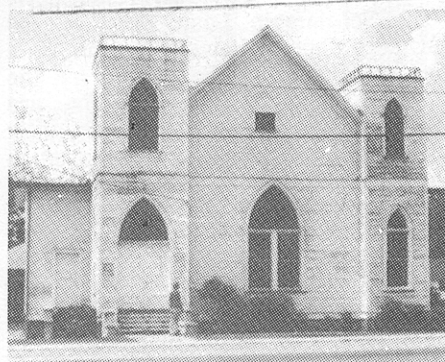
First Church had a covered dish dinner on May 14, to honor all the interim ministers that helped during the time of searching for a minister. A lot of work has been done around the parsonage and church getting ready for the new minister, Rev. Leland McReynolds, who arrives July 1, from Venice, Fla.

PENTECOST

PENTECOST, June 6, is an appropriate time to emphasize support of Our Christian World Mission (O.C.W.M.).

Pentecost celebrates the gathering of the first church fifty days after Easter and is popularly called the birthday of the church.

Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit and the empowerment of the disciples, "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me." (Acts. 1:8).



AMBROSE CHURCH

Fish Fry Benefits Ambrose Church

Down in South Georgia, the Ambrose Congregational Christian Church served a fish-fry in April that brought the church over \$1,100. This is to be used for returning the church building to its former stately beauty.

As we reflect on our denominational heritage in this bi-centennial year, it is interesting to note that this is one of over 20 Christian churches organized by the Rev. Hillyard Elder during his ministry around the turn of the century. Mr. Elder used this design in most of his new church starts, but it is the last frame building of this architecture remaining in Southeast Conference. This church and Columbus United (Columbus, Ga.) both have their original metal roofs.

People of the Ambrose Church through the years have been keenly conscious to retain the original beauty of the building in making improvements. One of their present needs is replacement of small panes of stained glass. The windows, like the rest of the building, are 60 years old. Anyone knowing of old window parts of bright yellows, blues, etc., that might be used please contact: Mrs. Mary Jo Lott, Church Clerk, Route 1, Ambrose, Ga. 31512. Pastor, Rev. George Hunt of Albany, Ga., is commuting over 80 miles to serve the church.

Ryder Memorial Hospital

Ryder Memorial Hospital in Puerto Rico has just dedicated a new \$8.3 million, 140-bed facility, after beginning as a medical mission in 1914. Much of the money was given for this by members of the United Church of Christ, matched by gifts and loans from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Dr. Wilke Speaks at Goodwill Meeting

Dr. Harold Wilke, Director of the Healing Community and former Director of the United Church of Christ Agency responsible for national programming for the 9,000 ministers of the denomination, spoke at the annual meeting of Goodwill Industries in Columbus, Ga.



Pictured above with Dr. Wilke are Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, Associate Conference Minister, and Rev. Nelson A. Kittle, U.C.C. minister as they see him off at the airport. Kittle was the first Executive Director of the Goodwill program in Columbus. Blankenhorn served on the Goodwill staff at the Columbus facility in the mid 60's. Dr. Wilke, who was born without hands and arms, is a member of Goodwill Industries National Board of Directors. Goodwill Industries are locally autonomous non-profit rehabilitation facilities for the disabled and disadvantaged. Through their National and International Association they make up the largest network of non-governmental agencies serving the world's handicapped.

—Martha Kittle

HONORED

The Rev. Dr. Lawrence N. Strunk, Executive Director of Uplands, Pleasant Hill, Tn., was recently proclaimed a Fellow in the American College of Nursing Home Administrators, in recognition of service beyond the ordinary professional demands, and of continuous adherence to the ethical and professional standards of the organization.

Southern Conference Minister, Dr. James H. Lightbourne, Jr., received the Distinguished Service Award from the N.C. Council of Churches at its annual assembly on March 23, in recognition of his service to the Council and his contributions to ecumenical endeavors in North Carolina. Dr. Lightbourne was Superintendent of the Southeast Convention before going to N.C.